

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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R 101107Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7867

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONODN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3713

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF KU

SUBJECT: KUWAITI VIEW OF US POSITION PRESENT MIDEAST SITUATION

1. DURING EVENING RAMADAN CALL OCT 8 ON ABD AL-AZIZ HUSSEIN, MINISTER OF CABINET AFFAIRS AND CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR GOK, I ASKED HIM FOR HIS REACTION TO STANCE THAT US HAD TAKEN REGARDING CURRENT MIDEAST WAR. HUSSEIN SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO FAULT US POSITION UNTIL HE LEARNED FEW MOMENTS PREVIOUSLY THAT US STIPULATING RETURN TO 1967 LINES TO CALL FOR CEASE FIRE. HUSSEIN SAID THIS CONDITION CLEARLY DIRECTED AGAINST ARABS, OTHERWISE WHY WAS US POSITION ON CEASE FIRE LINES IN 1973 DIFFERENT FROM ITS POSITION IN 1967? I REPLIED THAT USG WAS FOCUSING ON NEED TO STOP FIGHTING AND START TALKING AND BELIEVED THAT FOR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN TWO SIDES, BEST WAY TO START WAS RETURN TO LINES BEFORE CURRENT FIGHTING BEGAN.

2. HUSSEIN SAID MATTERS NOT THAT SIMPLE. WITH OBVIOUS PRIDE HE ASSERTED FIGHTING HAD ALREADY PROVED ARABS HAD COME LONG WAY SINCE
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1967: THEY WERE SHOWING LEVEL OF FIGHTING ABILITY, DTERMINATION

AND EVEN UNITY NOT HERETOFORE SEEN. REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF BATTLE,
ARABS COULD HOLD UP THEIR HEADS AND THEY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO FOR MANY

YEARS. FORCES IN ARAB WORLD HAD BEEN RELEASED THAT EVEN ARABS
THEMSELVES DID NOT KNOW EXISTED, AND ARABS NOT ABOUT NOW TO GO BACK,
SIT ON THEIR HAUNCHES AND WAIT FOR HANDOUT.

3. I EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT ARABS WOULD NOT INDULGE
IN SAME SELF-DELUSION AS DURING CATASTROPHIC DAYS OF JUNE 1967.
MOST IMPORTANT LESSON ARABS NEEDED LEARN WAS TO BE REALISTIC AND
HONEST WITH THEMSELVES. IN PARTICULAR, I SAID, ANOTHER EFFORT MAKE
US SCAPEGOAT WOULD PROVE AS DISASTROUS TO MODERATE ARABS AS US.
HUSSEIN REPLIED HE AGREED ENTIRELY. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE DETECTED
MUCH MORE OF A TENDANCY NOW THAN IN 1967 AMONG PEOPLE TO TRY TO
WEIGH FACTS AND SEPARATE TRUTH FROM WILD CLAIMS AND RUMOR. PEOPLE
SEEMED CALMER AND MORE REALISTIC AS WELL. HE COULD ONLY HOPE THAT
AMERICA HAD ALSO GAINED NEW PERSPECTIVE OF MIDEAST AREA AND US
INTERESTS HERE. I REPLIED US VERY WELL AWARE OF ITS INTERESTS, WANTED
PEACE AND A JUST SOLUTION TO MIDEAST PROBLEM AND WAS WILLING TO DO ITS UT
MOST TO ACHIEVE THESE ENDS.
STOLTZFUS

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